

To: Washburn, Ben[washburn.ben@epa.gov]
From: Carey, Curtis
Sent: Thur 11/5/2015 6:58:31 PM
Subject: Re: Margo McNeil response

Looks good

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 5, 2015, at 10:06 AM, Washburn, Ben <washburn.ben@epa.gov> wrote:

Curtis,

Below are the final responses for Rep. McNeil. Once you've taken a final look, I'll send on to the state legislators.

How do you know that the fires/smoldering events are not moving? Is your data recent?

EPA reviews a variety of data sets, including temperature monitoring well, gas extraction well, and landfill settlement data from the Bridgeton Landfill, to monitor the location of the subsurface smoldering event (SSE). EPA receives new data from MDNR monthly.

1. How far are the fires from the nuclear waste material?

We estimate that the SSE remains about 1,000 feet from the radiologically impacted material (RIM) within the West Lake Landfill. The SSE remains within the south quarry.

1. Can the EPA demand a particular action from Republic Services in regard to Bridgeton landfill? I.e. building a barrier at a particular location?

EPA is currently evaluating all of the information collected to date regarding a potential isolation barrier. EPA expects to make a decision on the barrier by the end of the year. More information regarding EPA's enforcement authorities can be found at the following link: <http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/superfund-enforcement-authorities>

2. Will Republic Services be responsible for the expense of building the barrier between the landfills?

In 2013, Republic Services committed to building an isolation barrier to separate the subsurface smoldering event in the Bridgeton Landfill from the radiologically impacted material contained within the West Lake Landfill. More information regarding EPA's enforcement authorities can be found at the following link: <http://www2.epa.gov/enforcement/superfund-enforcement-authorities>

2. Does the EPA know what chemicals/wastes were dumped in the Bridgeton Landfill?

The Bridgeton Landfill is a municipal solid waste landfill and contains wastes consistent with a municipal waste landfill.

3. Could the odor from that landfill be harmful to residents? (One citizen who lives about 1 ½ miles from the landfill tells me that odors have been emanating from it for 40 years. She also claims that many in her subdivision have died from lung cancer. This is not an area close to Coldwater Creek.)

EPA conducted off-site air monitoring for one year in five locations surrounding the West Lake Landfill Superfund Site. The data collected demonstrated no current off-site health risk posed by air contaminants. EPA does not regulate odors. However, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources collects data on odors at the Bridgeton Landfill and that data is analyzed by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. The MDHSS reports, which include their analysis of the odor data, are published on their Bridgeton Landfill website. In addition, over the past year EPA conducted off-site air monitoring at five locations surrounding the West Lake Landfill. Analysis of the data collected demonstrates that the air in the community surrounding the West Lake Landfill is similar to air in other locations in St. Louis and other major metropolitan cities.

4. Did I hear you to say that should the fire reach dirt laced with nuclear waste that the worst case scenario would be a release of radon gas? No explosion? No airborne event?

As stated in the 2014 Office of Research and Development memorandum, there could be a possible increase in radon gas emissions from the landfill. These emissions are expected to be localized to the landfill. We do not expect an explosion to occur, nor widespread dispersion of radionuclides.

Benjamin M. Washburn

Public Affairs Specialist

EPA Region 7

(913) 551-7364